

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to an enzyme reaction method which comprises performing an enzyme reaction, using an immobilized enzyme having a water content of 10 % by weight or more as an enzyme and using an organic solvent substantially immiscible with water as a reaction solvent, under such conditions that a liquid phase forms a homogeneous system without phase separation although it is saturated with water or an aqueous buffer; a method for performing an enzyme reaction using an aldehyde compound as a substrate, which comprises removing a carboxylic acid compound contained in an aldehyde compound by subjecting the aldehyde compound to an alkaline treatment before starting the enzyme reaction; a method for performing an enzyme reaction using an aldehyde compound as a substrate, which comprises reducing a carboxylic acid compound content in the aldehyde compound to 0.1 wt % or less by subjecting the aldehyde compound to an alkaline treatment before starting the enzyme reaction; a method for enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin from a carbonyl compound and prussic acid containing an acidic substance as a stabilizer, which comprises subjecting the prussic acid to a treatment for reducing inhibitory effect of the stabilizer on an enzyme, and performing an enzyme reaction to synthesize the optically active cyanohydrin using the treated prussic acid; a method for enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin, which comprises dissolving prussic acid in an organic solvent substantially immiscible with water to give an organic solution of prussic acid, adding a buffer to this solution in a saturation amount or more, mixing, collecting the organic phase, and performing an enzyme reaction to synthesize the optically active cyanohydrin using the organic phase as prussic acid; as well as a method for enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin, which comprises performing distillation of a reaction solution after completion of an enzyme reaction to separate and collect unreacted prussic acid and organic solvent therefrom, and repeatedly using the collected prussic acid and organic solvent at least once.